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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/717,935

11/21/2003

Yang Hwan No

K-0553

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11/21/2007

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EXAMINER

PATEL, RITA RAMESH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1792

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/21/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/717,935	Applicant(s) NO ET AL.	
	Examiner Rita R. Patel	Art Unit 1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5,7-9 and 11-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5,7-9 and 11-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Applicant's Arguments / Amendments

This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on 9/13/07. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, and 11-23 are pending. Claims 2-3, 6, and 10 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 14-17 have been amended.

In light of the amendments made to the claims as well as Applicant's arguments, the former rejection over Rode is hereby withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, the instant claims are rejected under new grounds of rejections and thus claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, and 11-23 are finally rejected for the reasons of record.

Applicant's Remarks filed 9/13/07 relied primarily upon the former rejection over Rode but is now considered moot because of a new grounds of rejection taught herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The former 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph over claims 14-18 is withdrawn due to Applicant's amendments made which particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-9, 11-13, 19, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim et al. herein referred to as "Kim" (US Patent No. 6,460,382).

Kim teaches a side-loading washing machine comprising a cabinet 1, tub 2, drum 3, and a rear wall of the tub 200 (protecting member) used to prevent water from flowing to the electrical motor 5. As seen in Figure 2B, the rear wall 200 at least partially encloses the motor 5, is integral to the tub, has at least one rib extending outward from the tub to the motor, has a predetermined curvature, and is disposed over the motor. The motor 5 is located at a rear side of the tub.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim as applied to claims above, and further in view of Broker et al. herein referred to as "Broker" (US 2003/0051296 A1).

Kim teaches the claimed invention, except is silent on a heating mechanism for heating for heating the water in said washing machine. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a heater to Kim for achieving warm or hot water distribution. Broker teaches a known heating

mechanism commonly used in washing machines with an outer cabinet shell 5; outer tub 25; side-loading inner tub 12. Broker discloses a heater 170 constituting a sheathed electric heating element 182 having a terminal electrical connectors 183 and 184; electrical connectors 183 and 184 project through a gasket 185 and a mounting plate 186. The heating mechanism of Broker is easily removable/added to the washing machine by sliding it in/out of the front side of a sealing device 60. Broker's mounting plate 186 and gasket 185 arrangement reads on applicant's claim for a pair of second ribs configured to prevent water from accessing a heater installed within the tub. See Figure 3 and 4. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the heater feature of Broker to Rode to sense and modify temperature of the washing liquid during a certain operating cycle. More specifically, Broker teaches the heater is commonly activated during a stain cycle option; if the temperature of the washing liquid is less than a predetermined temperature, additional time is added to a portion of the stain cycle in order to enhances the stain removal sequence (Paragraph [0006]). Performing efficient stain removal means in a washing machine via a heater is a known feature in the art of clothes washing machines as taught by Broker.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

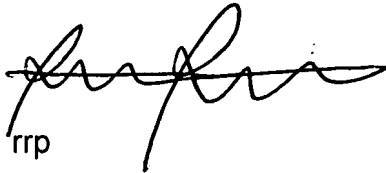
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita R. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-8701. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



rrp



MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER